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The role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development

The role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development: an overview of activities

Executive summary

Supporting Africa's efforts to achieve sustainable development remains a great challenge for the United Nations system. The evidence shows that in the field, many agencies are coordinating better, working hand in hand, particularly in the cross-sectoral areas of poverty reduction, health, including HIV/AIDS and malaria, human resource development and capacity-building; however, additional work needs to be done to support African countries in terms of policy advice, advocacy and capacity-building. The effectiveness of the work of the United Nations system as well as the goal of attaining sustainable development are being hampered by political, climatic, financial, and economic forces in the national and international environment. Conflicts, HIV/AIDS, and the lack of resources for development, in particular, have presented particular difficulties. These enormous challenges call for urgent and concerted action designed to enhance coordination among United Nations agencies and other partners in support of national, subregional and regional frameworks and initiatives owned by African countries. There is now strong consensus on the centrality of poverty reduction as the primary goal of development cooperation as well as on the key concepts of partnership and country ownership. The convergence of these two developments is propitious as it presents the opportunity for improving country-level cooperation and for beginning to discuss a clear division of labour between all development partners.

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Introduction

1. Part I of the conference room paper provides an overview of how the United Nations system has been responding to the priorities established by African countries in the *Cairo Agenda: Relaunching Africa's Economic and Social Development* adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at their summit held in Cairo in 1995 as well as other recent Declarations. The paper considers that poverty is an overarching issue, and while it examines activities that are specifically implemented to directly address poverty eradication, it is clear that the eradication of poverty requires an integrated approach that touches on all aspects of development. Within this perspective, the report looks at other priority areas where action is being taken and where more needs to be done to accelerate the eradication of poverty in Africa. Throughout the paper attention is drawn to collaborative activities of the United Nations system as well as specific programmes undertaken by individual agencies in the areas of their mandate.

2. One of the key concerns of African countries is the proliferation of coordination instruments and initiatives for Africa and the need for coherence and consistency of these instruments and initiatives. Part II of the report looks at how the United Nations is attempting to improve coordination at the country, regional and global levels and offers some proposals on how to maximize the effectiveness of United Nations activities in support of Africa's sustainable development. The report draws on information provided by the organizations of the United Nations system.[1] It supplements the main report of the Secretary General to the High-level Segment (E/2001/83).

PART I: Overview of United Nations Activities in Support of Africa's Priorities

A. Eradicating poverty[2]

3. As a result of the United Nations global advocacy, the eradication of poverty has become a central objective of development cooperation for all development partners. All the Declarations and Plans of Action emerging from the major global conferences of the 1990s, particularly the *Copenhagen Declaration* adopted at the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 refer to the principal goal of poverty eradication. The General Assembly, at its 24th Special Session to review progress in the implementation of the Copenhagen Plan of Action, called for a launch of a Global Campaign for Poverty Eradication and committed the international community to halving the proportion of people living on $1 a day by 2015, a target which was endorsed in the *Millennium Declaration*.

4. To refocus their operations on growth and poverty reduction and advance progress to the International Development Goals (IDG), the IMF and World Bank initiated, in late 1999, a new approach to their financial support for low-income countries, based on national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). The PRSPs are characterized by: country ownership and participation, outcome orientation with clearly defined goals for poverty reduction and social indicators, comprehensiveness based on an understanding of the nature and determinants of poverty, and emphasis on more efficient and transparent public resource management and on monitoring the impact of government spending on targeted beneficiaries. The PRSP is also a framework for coordinating donor assistance, strengthening collaboration between the IMF and the World Bank, and providing debt relief under the Enhanced Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. The PRSP approach is expected to help HIPCs to use resources released through debt relief for prop-poor expenditure programmes in a transparent and efficient manner. As of May 2001, the IMF had approved 25 full and interim PRSPs.

5. To support countries' poverty reduction strategies, the IMF replaced the former Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) with the *Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility* (PRGF), and PRGF-supported programmes and conditionality are now based on countries' PRSPs. The programmes aim at the twin goals of macroeconomic stability and equitable growth and are based on measurable targets for poverty reduction and social indicators as set out in PRSPs, the budgetary costs of reaching these targets, and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that spending is efficient and reaches the poor. Under the ESAF/PRGF-supported programmes, government expenditure on health and education in African HIPCs increased from an average of about 5 per cent of GDP in 1996 to 5½ per cent in 1999-2000; it is expected to increase further to 6½ per cent of GDP by 2002.

6. The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) *Poverty Action Plan*, adopted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) in October 2000, and disseminated to Resident Coordinators in December 2000, is one attempt to translate the poverty goals of the Millennium Summit at the country level in a coordinated fashion. Africa should benefit the implementation of the Plan at a national-level. Already a number of poverty-related projects have been undertaken jointly with various UN agencies, Bretton Woods Institutions, governments, and NGOs. One example is the Ohangwena Poverty Reduction Programme in Namibia, involving UNDESA, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNESCO, FAO and the Ministry of Regional, Local Government and Housing. It is described as "an integrated, grass-root, multi-sectoral and agriculture-based activity". The project achieved various results, including the training of 500 farmers in pilot communities, the completion of an Activities Centre, and the elaboration of a research framework. In Ghana, the World Bank, the Africa Development Bank (AfDB), FAO and UNIDO collaborated to continue providing integrated support to the national poverty reduction programme focusing on five pilot districts. FAO, UNDP and the World Bank also collaborated with other development partners in Ghana helped to implement the Agriculture Sector Services Investment Programme (AgSSIP), which is considered an important poverty-fighting tool.

7. The generation of remunerative and productive employment is one of the most effective ways of attacking both absolute and relative poverty and securing peace and stability. The ILO, with the financial support of the UNDP, has put in place a *Jobs for Africa Programme* with a view to assisting countries in establishing a policy framework for employment-intensive growth and a diversified and comprehensive programme of action for job creation. The programme was initially intended for ten countries but because of heightened interest and demand, the programme has now been extended to seven additional countries.[3]

8. Because of the importance of the agricultural sector to Africa economies, its productivity is critical to the reduction of poverty. The Tsetse fly, which infects and kills livestock, deprives small farmers of use of these animals for draft power, thereby contributing to low productivity and poverty. Against this backdrop, the work being done by the IAEA to create Tsetse-free zones in Sub-Saharan Africa is an important success story that should be replicated elsewhere.

Creating Tsetse-Free Zones in Sub-Sahara Africa

One success story, which has significant implications for addressing rural poverty, is the work done jointly by the IAEA and FAO to create zones free of tsetse flies, disease vectors that are found only in Africa. The Tsetse fly transmits trypanosomes, which sicken and kill both animals and man, and currently affects one-third of Africa's total land area, threatening an estimated 50 million cattle in 37 countries. The annual losses in reduced meat and milk production, and the costs related to treating and controlling the disease combined with the loss of potential crop and livestock production are estimated at $4.5 billion. Using an environmentally friendly technology known as the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT), the IAEA, with support from FAO, has assisted the Tanzanian Authorities to render Zanzibar free of tsetse flies, thus generating substantial development opportunities from Zanzibar Island. Another effort is on the way in Ethiopia, where the Government, the IAEA and other partners, are cooperating to eradicate the tsetse fly from 25,000 square kilometres of potentially productive land in the Southern Rift Valley. Similar area-wide campaigns are being initiated, for example, in the moist savannah of West and Central Africa. The OAU is seeking to address this root problem as a priority and has initiated the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC), an initiative that seeks to promote the systematic creation and subsequent continuous expansion of tsetse fly free zones, eventually covering all of sub-Saharan Africa.

9. With most of the poor living in rural areas, the role of rural development in poverty eradication is vital. The promotion of equitable access to natural resources (including land and water), economic resources and social services is crucial if rural populations are to escape from poverty. The International Fund for Agricultural Development focuses its lending, 40 per cent of which goes to sub-Saharan Africa, on promoting agriculture and rural policies that strengthen the capacity of the rural poor to manage resources and link to liberalized commodity and capital markets. Poverty is also becoming increasingly urbanized. Depending on the individual countries and cities, between 20 and 68% of African city dwellers are living in poverty situations, with very little or no access to basic urban services. Through its activities, UNCHS-Habitat is assisting in reinforcing capacities of local authorities

and their partners to formulate and implement local action plans for poverty reduction through participatory process. These plans integrate organically different components such as sustainable access to land, housing and basic infrastructure and services, income generating activities and the development of an economic environment, including social integration and the urban safety.

10. In Africa, as elsewhere, the majority of people living in poverty are women. The processes of impoverishment are passed along gender lines, and cultural and attitudinal barriers limit women's access to resources and opportunities. More often, women are hardest hit by economic and other crisis. The United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has been implementing a series of strategies to address the multi-dimensional nature of poverty. In doing so, emphasis has been placed on building the capacity of women small scale producers, through training, provision of improved technology, linking women producers and entrepreneurs with external markets. A good example is the facilitating role played by UNIFEM in linking shea butter producers in West Africa to L'Occitane, a French-based multinational using shea butter in variety of its products. Preliminary data show an increase of 30-60 per cent in the income of the women shea producers in 2000 compared to 1999 figures. In addition, UNIFEM and UNCDF have been assisting small and micro enterprises in building micro-finance and microenterprise networks.

11. In the short term, more formal social protection systems will have to be put in place in Africa in view of the strain on traditional social networks from deepening poverty, HIV/AIDS, conflicts and increasing urbanization. The United Nations will promote the sharing of experiences in this area and will coordinate with other partners to ensure that it is an essential part of the Global Campaign for Poverty Reduction. The United Nations will also to strengthen the capacity of African Governments to make the linkages between the economic and social dimensions of poverty strategies, assist in monitoring and analysis before and after the PRSP is produced, and promote economic and social policies that are pro-poor, including employment and income generating opportunities for poor people through micro-finance, enterprise development, food security and land tenure. The United Nations will also continue to mobilize political support and resources for the Global Poverty Campaign. It will also strengthen its partnerships with governments, bilateral donors, the Bretton Woods Institutions, civil society organizations, including the private sector, in implementing the UN Poverty Action Plan in Africa.

B. Improving governance, human rights and conflict prevention[4]

12. Governance is an important cross-cutting issue for African countries because it is an important component for promoting sustainable development. In order for African countries to attract investment and to accelerate growth, governments have to be efficient and transparent in their processes. To support Africa's efforts, the United Nations, through UNDP and the ECA, supported by the World Bank, UN/DESA and the ADB, convenes an annual *Africa Governance Forum* (AGF) with representatives of governments, civil society organizations, donors and the private sector as part of the Special Initiative for Africa-Governance Component. The Forum has addressed issues ranging from democratic governance and poverty, elections, judicial independence, decentralization, transparency and accountability to public sector reforms. Recommendations are issued on important aspects to be developed or strengthened by UNDP, other multilateral institutions or by bilateral programmes.

13. The Bretton Woods Institutions have also been promoting good governance through its traditional support for reform of budget formulation and execution, through strengthening auditing and accounting institutions, and through improving transparency of public finances aimed at improving the management of public resources and limiting rent seeking and preferential treatment as well as corruption. Indeed, all PRGF and HIPC decision point documents include structural measures in the governance area. DESA is also providing support in the area of governance. Its work has resulted in the adoption of the Charter of Public Service for Africa by the Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Civil Service, in Windhoek Namibia, in February 2001. The Charter seeks to promote public service professionalism and combat corruption.

14. In the area of human rights, a number of United Nations organizations have provided support to African countries for elaborating human rights action plans (UNDP/Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights (UNHCHR), drafting national legislation and providing technical advisory services (ILO, UNESCO and UNHCR), and promoting the rights of women and children (UNICEF and UNIFEM). A number of

organizations, including UNHCHR and DESA, have also assisted with the training of magistrates and giving human rights courses to members of the military and police forces in several African countries.

15. In view of the role played by decentralized governance in promoting participation and self-reliance of poor communities, the United Nations, through the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), has been working to promote local government in a number of African countries. The Fund is providing assistance with local planning and financing procedures, the formulation of decentralisation policies and the drafting of appropriate legislation. UNCHS-Habitat is also reinforcing capacities of local authorities and their partners to formulate and implement local action plans for poverty reduction through participatory process, focusing in access to land, housing, basic infrastructure and services and urban safety. Lack of institutional capacity and inadequate financial resources have limited the effectiveness of the UN's activities in this area.

16. Although positive results have not always been achieved, the United Nations has played an important role in the settlement of conflicts and the maintenance of peace in Africa. By the presence of peacekeeping troops, it has also sought to deter the renewal of hostilities, promote peaceful solutions and help to build a secure environment for development. The United Nations has helped to bring peace to Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa, and more recently has been actively engaged in the transition to peace in the Central Africa Republic, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Concomitant with this important activity, the United Nations is also assisting with the enhancement of African Member States' peacekeeping capacity through training efforts by UN staff or by United Nations Training Assistance Teams and is also supporting the OAU in the development of its Situation Room through staff exchanges. UNDP has also been providing assistance to the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Management, assisting in the development of the OAU information system and mobilizing resources for the "Peace Fund", which still remains under-resourced.

17. On a broader level, the United Nations has been highlighting the need to address the root causes of conflict and, in this regard, has been instrumental in putting the nexus between peace, development, democratization, good governance and human rights on the international agenda. The 1998 report of the Secretary General on the *Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa* presented to the Security Council in April 1998 and the General Assembly in October 1998, took a broader view of human security, drawing attention to the fact that, in addition to democracy and improved governance, increased ODA, debt relief, market access and foreign direct investment, and reversing the health crisis HIV/AIDS would enhance the prospects for durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. These principles were endorsed by the Millennium Summit in Article VII of the Millennium Declaration. The Summit of the Security Council also pledged to promote durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" and urged the United Nations system to develop "comprehensive and integrated strategies to address the root causes of conflicts, including their economic and social dimensions."

18. An effective way for the United Nations to assist African countries in the area of peacebuilding is to combine peace-building, emergency assistance and longer-term development support measures in a comprehensive and coherent response. To this end, the United Nations has established several peacebuilding support offices in Liberia, Guinea Bissau and the Central Africa Republic geared towards promoting national reconciliation and strengthening democratic institutions, harmonizing UN peace-building activities in the field and facilitating the mobilization of international support for these activities, assistance in the destruction of weapons and facilitation of communications between the government, neighbouring countries, regional organizations and bilateral donors. The United Nations is working with the World Bank, which has established a Post-Conflict Unit in its Social Development Department as well as a focal point for post-conflict transition issues within the Poverty Reduction and Social Development Technical Group of the Africa Region, with a view to addressing such needs as the social reintegration of displaced and ex-combatants, community reconciliation, reconstruction of social and physical infrastructure, and institutional development at all levels of society. It may be recalled that following the debate on the report of the Open-Ended *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Causes of Conflict, the General Assembly requested ECOSOC to establish "an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on countries emerging from conflict with a view to assessing their economic needs and elaborating long-term programmes of support for implementation that begins with the integration of relief into development." This is in line with elements of the Brahimi Report and the United Nations will facilitate the work of the Group when it is established.

19. Within this framework, the ECA, in collaboration with other partners, including the African Development Bank (AfDB), the OAU, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the UN/Department of

Political Affairs, the UNHCR, and the World Bank, sought to address the subregional dimension of post-conflict reconstruction and development in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Each of these three countries is either emerging from the ravages of war or has been adversely affected by conflicts in the neighbouring countries. Known as the Mano River Basin Initiative, its aim is to assist the process of post conflict peace building within and among the three countries by focusing on development activities that are subregional in nature, including support for the Mano River Union in the establishment of a Joint Security Commission; assistance in strengthening the institutional capacity of MRU secretariat; and promoting networking among parliamentarians and civil society. The political situation has deteriorated quickly and the recent escalation in border clashes has prevented the implementation of the initiative. The Inter-Agency Mission to West Africa, which took place in March 2001, has made specific proposals to address this and other problems in the region.

20. One of the contributing elements to the problems in West Africa and in some of the other subregions is the rapid accumulation, illicit sale and indiscriminate use of small arms. For this reason, the United Nation strongly supports the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, which is being implemented through the UNDP-financed Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED), in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament and ECOWAS. Other subregions, namely the Horn of Africa and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) have followed the lead of ECOWAS in trying to control the spread of illegal weapons. The Declarations[5] from both regions show that this issue is now being taken seriously. It is hoped that these efforts will be strengthened by the outcome of the *United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects,* which is taking place from 9-20 July 2001. The EU "Everything But Arms" Initiative, which will allow for duty-free access for all LDC exports except arms is welcomed. It is to be hoped that this is a prelude to a possible comprehensive ban on arms exports to countries in conflicts and international regulation of arms trafficking in general.

Supporting Women's Role in the Peace Process

To strengthen women's participation in the **Burundi** peace process, the UN Women's Fund established new partnerships with the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the Department of Public Information (DPI), and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). At the invitation of the Burundi Facilitation Team, UNIFEM briefed the 19 negotiating parties to the peace process on gender issues. This resulted in substantive changes to the peace agreement and the unprecedented opportunity to facilitate Burundi women's formal participation in the negotiation process. Together with the Special Representative of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, UNIFEM convened the first ever All Parties **Burundi Women's Peace Conference**, resulting in the adoption of 23 proposals made by Burundi women in the country's final peace agreement. In **Somalia**, UNIFEM, in collaboration with UNDP, supported Somali Women's Participation in the **National Reconciliation Conference**, resulting in Somali women's direct input into the Charter. This resulted in the incorporation of a gender perspective on human rights provisions, and in provisions relating to women's participation in governance and decision making processes. Three of the women who participated as a result of UNIFEM's support became part of the historic 28 women parliamentarians in the Transitional Parliament.

21. Women are over-represented as victims of conflict but under-represented in conflict resolution and peacebuilding decision-making. Recognizing the importance of strengthening the capacity of women to effectively participate in and contribute to both conflict prevention and peacebuilding, the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), in collaboration with the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the ECA, and the OAU, is currently implementing a regional project on women and peacebuilding. UNIFEM is also engaged in strengthening women's positive role in this area by strengthening networks and coalitions for peace at community and national levels, for example, in Burundi, Somalia and Sudan.

22. The Security Council has recognized the central role that women can play in facilitating peace and, for the first time, devoted a session of the Council to the role and experience of women in conflict, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. To facilitate the follow-up to the Council's resolution (S/1325/2000), the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, developed an action plan to respond to the call for practical measures to enhance

women's role as equal partners in all stage of peace processes, ensure their protection in armed conflict and bring perpetrators of gender crimes to justice. African women will be the principal beneficiaries of this plan.

23. In addressing, also for the first time, the need for a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding, the Security Council in its Presidential Statement of 20 February 2001, noted that "successful peacebuilding is predicated on an effective and an unambiguous division of labour, based on the comparative advantage of different implementing bodies, between all the international partners, including the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and the wider international community." Clearly, stand-alone policies and single interventions are insufficient in themselves to meet the daunting challenges being faced by the region. Consequently, the United Nations will have to ensure that its targeted interventions are coordinated and sequenced in consonance with those of other development partners in such a way as to enhance impact at the country and subregional level.

24. Poverty reduction through the creation of productive employment and income-generation opportunity remains the greatest challenge for peace-building. More wealth also needs to be generated and shared so that ordinary people will feel that they have a stake in conflict prevention. Development partners will also have to do more in the short-term to address the problem of youth unemployment as it has serious implications for countries in crisis or emerging from conflicts. It is also an area where the United Nations would need to build upon existing programmes such as the "Jobs for Africa Programme", as well as develop, in cooperation with other partners, comprehensive and innovative solutions as conflict prevention tools. The effective implementation of various initiatives and efforts aimed at post-conflict peace-building would need to be supported through substantial and predictable resources, domestic as well as international. This should be supported by flexible and innovative debt relief strategies for countries on the verge of or emerging from conflict.

C. Enhancing Food Security[6]

25. As the region that is home to most of the world's poorest countries, it is not surprising that Africa is also the most undernourished.[7] Although the number of undernourished people is expected to fall to 22 percent in 2015, according to FAO projections, sub-Sahara Africa will be the region furthest from reaching the target of halving the number of malnourished people by half by this date. FAO is playing a leading role in assisting African governments as well as sub-regional organizations in translating the *World Food Summit Plan of Action*, which acknowledges the particular gravity of the situation in sub-Sahara Africa, into appropriate strategies. The goal of the Plan is to achieve sustainable food security for all and to reduce hunger by half by 2015, a goal reinforced by the Millennium Declaration. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) *Network on Rural Development and Food Security*, which is jointly managed by FAO and IFAD, in close cooperation with WFP, is also working with key development partners to implement these strategies. The ACC Network consists of national thematic groups within the UN Resident Coordinator System working on various aspects of rural development and food security. As of February 2001, 33 national thematic groups were established in Africa and 6 thematic groups were in their initial stages of development. The Network also assists in the implementation of FAO's *Special Programme for Food Security* (SPFS), which is operational in countries listed as Low Income and Food Deficit (LIFDC) and which covers 36 African countries.

26. Some regions have been particularly affected by cycles of famine, including Southern Africa[8] and the Horn of Africa.[9] In response to the severity of the problem in the Horn, particularly in view of the role of conflicts in exacerbating famine, the Secretary General established, in April 2000, the *Inter-Agency Task Force on the UN Response to Long-Term Food Security, Agricultural Development and Related Aspects in the Horn of Africa*. In October 2000, the Task Force launched a ten-year strategy to respond to the cycle of famine and under-nourishment in the Horn of Africa. It is anticipated that country food security programmes will be put in place by mid 2001 in beneficiary countries. A Regional Food Security Programme to address broader issues such as conflict resolution and trade will complement country programmes. After these programmes are formulated, the Task Force recommends the holding of a high-level regional conference at which governments can commit to the elimination of famine and food insecurity, and UN agencies, donors and non-governmental organizations can pledge their support. The World Bank has agreed to coordinate resource mobilization for the implementation of the task force strategy

27. The WFP continues to assist in providing food aid, which is one of the many instruments, which can help to promote food security. In 2000, the WFP provided 1.8 million tons of food aid to 34.9 million people in Africa, much of it during emergency and recovery operations. By supporting income-generating activities such as food processing in several countries (enriched cereals/weaning foods in Ethiopia, Senegal, Madagascar), which is then bought by WFP, the organization contributes to expanding the local economy and encourages food security. A total of 421,749 metric tonnes of food was purchased by WFP in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2000, for a total value of almost $76 million and accounted for 25 per cent of WFP's total local food purchase in 2000.

28. A contributing factor to food insecurity is the fact that in some regions like West Africa, large percentages of the population are clustered in arid and semi-arid areas. Access to water in these circumstances is critical for agriculture and for poverty reduction. According to IFAD 2001 Poverty Report, only 5 per cent of farmland in sub-Sahara Africa is irrigated compared to one-third in East and South Asia. The limited experience of irrigation in East and Southern Africa, has led IFAD to develop a major initiative to develop small-scale irrigation to increase productivity of agriculture by smallholders.

29. Increasing the productivity of agriculture also requires the basic application of technology. While much of Asia and Central America experienced the Green Revolution during the period since 1965, Africa was largely by-passed. Using existing technologies that have worked in other regions can help Africa to increase food security.

WARDA and New Rice for Africa

Thanks to the support of UNDP, the World Bank and other development partners, the West African Rice Development Authority (WARDA) has successfully developed new rice varieties that are being tested in the region and could soon be replicated throughout Africa. The new rice varieties offer a breakthrough for farmers in the region - many of them women - that can help reduce poverty and save countries millions of dollars in rice imports, thus having a real impact on improving poor farmers' incomes and increasing their food security. NERICA (New Rice for Africa), as the varieties are known, can produce up to 50 per cent more grain than current varieties when cultivated with traditional rain-fed systems without fertilizer. It is estimated by UNDP that the adoption of NERICA in West Africa on about 25 per cent of the area planted in rice over the next three to five years can potentially produce a saving of $100 million a year in rice imports and boost farmers' incomes by more than 25 per cent, thus contributing to regional food security.

30. Food security can also be addressed by increasing food availability and reducing post-harvest losses, by adding value to agricultural products and through higher agricultural productivity as a result of using industrial inputs and equipment. In most of its Integrated Programmes in Africa, UNIDO has developed an agro/food industry component, for example, butter processing, leather goods manufacture and textile design and garment making aimed at providing more food as well as generating income to buy food.

31. Clearly, food security will not be realized without cross-sectoral and trans-boundary considerations including energy supply, agriculture and rural development, environmental protection, industrialization, and strengthening health systems. Renewed multilateral trade negotiations on agriculture should also ensure that new trade rules do not undermine food security bearing in mind the commitment made at the World Food Summit that governments will "strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented world trade system." The review of progress towards achieving the goals of the Summit, which takes place from 5-9 November 2001, presents the international community with another opportunity to show its commitment to food security in Africa.

D. Reversing Environmental Deterioration

32. The international community, in adopting Agenda 21 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio in 1992, also acknowledged the importance of conservation and management of resources as a key element of sustainable development. The "United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in those countries experiencing serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa" expressly

underlines even in its title, the specificity of Africa, and the need to ensure that all efforts are made in order to secure a viable long term strategy for the promotion of sustainable development in African fragile ecosystems.

33. Within the United Nations, the UNCCD Secretariat, supported by UNEP, has provided catalytic support to various countries for the preparation of national action programmes (NAPs) as required by the Convention. To date, 15 countries have finalized and validated their NAPs. The implementation of sub-regional programmes is ongoing and a number of transboundary pilot projects, aimed at enhancing the management of shared natural resources and local integrated management, have been formulated with the support of the Secretariat and other partners. A UNDP funded Regional School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests (ERAIFT), established in Kinshasa supported by a number of bilateral partners, also seeks to provide capacity building for conserving the region's biodiversity. Six thematic networks have been formed at the regional level on issues which are of critical importance to Africa, including, integrated management of international river, lake and hydrogeological basins; agroforestry and soil conservation; rational use of rangelands and development of fodder crops; ecological monitoring, natural resources mapping, remote sensing and early warning systems; promotion of new and renewable energy sources and technologies; and sustainable agricultural farming systems. The work of these groups is being facilitated by a Regional Coordination Unit for Africa, hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB), with support of UNEP. UNEP, in collaboration with Habitat, is assisting African countries to improve the management of supply and demand for water through the 'Water for African Cities'. In addition, Habitat is also assisting with the preparation of comprehensive water resource management plans with the aim of securing water resources and maintaining sound quality.

34. UNEP has taken a leadership role in providing support to African countries in the formulation of environmental policies and policy instruments. This included support to Governments through legal, technical assistance and advisory services in various programme areas as well as support to regional and sub-regional cooperation frameworks. It has also played a key role in the reorientation of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to make it an effective instrument for dealing with the region's environmental challenges. In response to a request from AMCEN, UNEP has established an African Forum on Forests to ensure an effective response to the global agenda on forests within the context of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests. UNEP has also facilitated the development of a common African position on the issues of desertification, climate change, biosafety, forest protection and more recently, in collaboration with DESA, on energy. Additionally, UNIDO is also assisting African countries to meet critical environmental problems by installing and upgrading effluent treatment plants and training staff to operate them. This has led to a substantial reduction in effluents helping countries to meet their obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer to phase out aerosols, refrigerants, foams and solvents.

35. Of the various programmes undertaken by UNESCO in the area of sustainable development of biodiversity, the 'Man and the Biosphere' programme is particularly noteworthy. The programme, which has nominated 41 Biosphere Reserves in 22 countries for GEF funding, seeks to foster economic and human development, which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable. It also provides support for research, monitoring, education and information exchange related to local, national and global issues of conservation and development. Regional networks have been established, including the AfriMAB regional network based in Dakar, which aims at promoting regional co-operation in the fields of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the context of the Biosphere Reserves.

36. Many African countries have already started formulating national or sub-regional action programmes to combat desertification but, in too many cases, these programmes still need to be funded. Continued high population growth, weak management and institutional capacities, misuse of water resources and pollution of water resources, high costs and scarcity of resources required for reversing environmental deterioration continue to make this a challenging task.

E. Reversing the health crisis

37. Africa is facing a disease burden of historic proportion, which is contributing to poverty while at the same time exacerbated by poverty. Hunger and malnutrition leave people more vulnerable to disease and are contributing to the re-emergence of preventable diseases, putting pressure on already depleted national health budgets. The

gravity of the health crisis facing the continent, particularly the potential devastation of HIV/AIDS, has been recognized by African Governments as reflected in their various Declarations on health.[10]

1. HIV/AIDS

38. In order to develop an unprecedented response to this unprecedented crisis, the United Nations system established in December 1999, under the personal leadership of the Secretary-General, the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa (IPAA), a UNAIDS-spearheaded initiative. This broad partnership brings together African Governments, donors countries, United Nations agencies, the private sector and the community sector and was formed to scale-up, significantly, the international community collective efforts against AIDS in Africa. Together, these partners have contributed to, and have agreed to a strategy called the *Framework for Action*. This strategy outlines the vision, the principles and the overall goal of the IPAA. It also sets expected results and key milestones to be achieved and it defines the roles and responsibilities of all partners.

39. During 2000, the IPAA created an unprecedented mobilisation of leadership and commitment. Many African Heads of States, the OAU, the ADB and ECA have committed themselves to the IPAA. In recognition of the fact that an extraordinary response was needed, the UN Security Council recognized HIV/AIDS as a threat to international security in its first debate on the disease in January 2000, and has debated the AIDS pandemic an additional three times since then. International summits such as the June 2000 meeting of the Group of Eight (G-8) in Okinawa, the Heads of State Summit of the OAU in Lomé, the ECA's Africa Development Forum in Addis Ababa in December 2000, the OAU Special Heads of State Summit on HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases held in April 2001, and the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on HIV/AIDS strengthened the commitment against HIV/AIDS at the highest political level.

40. The IPAA also contributed to the growing financial and technical commitment to the fight against the epidemic. African governments have re-aligned their funding priorities; donors have increased significantly their financial contributions. In the framework of the Debt-for-AIDS Initiative, UNAIDS is working with African countries to mainstream AIDS into development instruments such as Social Funds, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) agreements. This helped to mobilise additional funds to finance the national AIDS responses by several African governments. The World Bank, approved a $500 million Multi-Country AIDS Program (MAP) in September 2000 and has committed to allocate another $500 million in the near future. The UNAIDS Cosponsors[11] have re-oriented their programmatic activities on HIV/AIDS to commit additional financial, human and technical resources. Private sector organisations such as the UN foundation and Gates Foundation among others have provided significant grants.

41. In collaboration with the United Nations, pharmaceutical companies are exploring ways to accelerate and improve the provision of HIV/AIDS-related care and treatment in developing countries. At the request of the Secretary-General, six leading pharmaceutical companies agreed to accelerate the reduction of prices for HIV-related drugs, particularly for African LDCs; to continue offering affordable medicines to other developing countries, on a country-by-country basis; and to consider increasing access to qualified NGOs and appropriate private companies offering health care to employees and local communities in the affected countries. Through the *Interagency Task Team on HIV-Related Drugs*, nine UN agencies, led by UNAIDS and WHO, have adopted a four-part strategy to guide and coordinate action on access to HIV-related drugs: the rational selection and use of HIV-related drugs; affordable prices; sustainable financing, and reliable health systems.

42. The IPAA has contributed to making more effective use of existing national and regional technical resources to support national AIDS programmes and to building capacity in some priority areas e.g. prevention of vertical transmission of HIV and care. The IPAA has also been instrumental in helping countries to develop multisectoral national strategic plans on HIV/AIDS. In several countries, this has resulted in the organisation of successful roundtables to mobilise the resources for its implementation. Increased commitment of governments, contributed to the establishment of *high level national co-ordinating bodies*. The IPAA has provided technical expertise to build the capacity of these multisectoral national AIDS councils and their secretariats. Through the District Response Initiative, which is based on a broader community mobilisation and participation, the Partnership has supported countries in strengthening the capacity of communities to respond to the epidemic in order to *decentralise the response* against AIDS.

43. The efforts of all partners under the IPAA have contributed to scaling up of programmatic interventions by providing financial, technical and material resources and establishing partnership mechanisms such as information exchange, joint planning and mutual assistance in several countries. The UNAIDS Secretariat and the Cosponsors are building on the experience from twenty years of response to the epidemic. The successful experiences of countries such as Senegal and Uganda have shown that reduction in infection rates is possible. However, much more needs to be done to address the magnitude of the impact of the pandemic on individuals, families, societies and the development of the sub-Saharan countries. There is a critical need to move more quickly from planning to action. The Secretary-General has proposed the creation of a global fund for HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. It is estimated that US$7-10 billion annually would be needed to finance a global campaign against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, compared to the $1 billion spent currently. In addition, the establishment of clear and thorough mechanisms for channelling the funds directly to the communities is a priority. Co-ordination by the government is a key element for a successful national response and needs to be strengthened, as should the leadership role of the community, especially traditional leaders, religious leaders, youth groups, women's groups and networks of people living with HIV/AIDS so that they may build partnerships at national and local level, and contribute effectively to the national response.

2. Malaria and other diseases[12]

44. Recognizing that the human and economic costs of malaria are unacceptably high, the international community, including the UN system has, in recent years, begun to seriously address this crippling problem. In 1998, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and the World Bank joined forces to launch the *Roll Back Malaria* campaign. The campaign seeks to strengthen health systems to ensure better delivery of health care; expand the use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets; ensure adequate access to basic healthcare and training of health workers; encourage the development of simpler and more effective means of administering medicines and encourage the development of more effective and new anti-malaria drugs and vaccines. The Campaign has led to the preparation of plans of action in 38 countries, development of malaria control policies as well as indicators for monitoring and evaluation, upgrading of intervention capacities at the regional level, and the use of insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets promoted in at least 30 countries.[13] The African Summit on Roll Back Malaria held in Abuja, Nigeria in April 2000 supported these goals and reinforced commitment to rollback the deaths from the disease by 50 per cent by 2010. The IAEA is also contributing to this campaign by supporting the introduction of molecular based diagnostics for drug resistant strains of malaria, a problem of increasing importance to the global health community.

45. The health of Africa's women and children are also threatened on other fronts. As many as 870 women per 100,000 die in childbirth compared to 20 in developed countries and 1.2 million children under 5 die from childhood diseases. UNFPA, in collaboration with WHO, UNCEF and UNDP and other partners, is implementing Reproductive Health programmes to improve maternal mortality and morbidity rates in the region. UNICEF's Expanded Programme of Immunizations (EPI), carried out with the support of WHO, has been particularly effective in reducing vaccine-preventable disease. A synchronized polio immunization campaign by 17 countries in West Africa resulted in the vaccination of 70 million children in one week last year. Other diseases, including tuberculosis, sleeping sickness,[14] lymphatic filariasis, yellow fever, dengue, dengue haemorrhagic fever and river blindness,[15] continue to plague Africa. Sustained vector control can help to effectively contained some of these diseases and make a difference.

46. Achieving the health goals of African countries and the international community will require a coordinated effort, led by public-private partnerships, to mobilise financial, technical and other resources in support of community based interventions. Community based activities and bottom up approaches with clear definition of targets and objectives should accompany all health interventions to ensure success and sustainability. Resources should, as a priority, be devoted to the strengthening of health systems. Without functioning health systems, proven and effective health sector interventions cannot be effectively implemented. In addition, supporting and strengthening health/medical research institutions in Africa, including research into traditional medicine is an urgent priority. Since a substantial portion of the African population uses traditional medicine for various ailments ranging from mental illness to HIV/AIDS, it is vital that African Governments integrate traditional medicine into their national health systems. WHO is working with partners to ensure that traditional medicines are widely available and accessible by assisting in ensuring protection for the intellectual property rights of indigenous knowledge in traditional medicine. However, it should be borne in mind that easing the disease burden of Africa, including also malaria and other infectious diseases, will also require a very broad development approach where health sector

reforms go hand in hand with poverty reduction, conflict prevention,[16] and community participation, particularly of women. Since Africa is the only region where HIV infections rates are higher for women than men, more attention will have to be paid to reversing women's vulnerability to this dreaded disease.

F. Strengthening Human resources and capacity building[17]

47. In the belief that access to knowledge is a basic human right, the United Nations has consistently advocated for education for all beginning the 1990 *World Conference on Education for All* (Jomtien, Thailand) to the *World Education Forum* (Dakar, Senegal) in 2000, and reinforced by all member states at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. The *Millennium Declaration* reconfirmed the commitment made at Dakar, that the basic learning needs of all children, young people and adults, wherever they may live, will be met by 2015. As the organizers of the Conference noted on the first anniversary of the Dakar Forum, the challenge to meet the goals of *Education For All* is greatest in Africa. As many as 22 countries in the region are unlikely to reach the target of universal primary enrolment by 2015 unless serious action is taken. In seven of these countries, around half of all children of primary age are currently not in primary school. In 12 countries, primary enrolments have increased over the decade, but at a rate that will be insufficient to ensure that all children are in primary school by 2015. It is estimated that possibly 30 per cent of those currently not in primary school will never learn to read and write.

48. Since 1996, under the *United Nations Special Initiative for Africa* education component, the United Nations system has been actively engaged in assisting African countries to meet their education goals. The programme, which is jointly coordinated by UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Bank, with the collaboration of UNDP, has developed a strategy to support basic education in the 16 low enrolment countries,[18] focussing on expanding access and improving quality, with special emphasis on the education of girls. The World Bank, supported by other agencies, is also supporting the preparation of education sector development programmes in 15 African countries for funding. Resources from the Global Food for Education Initiative launched in 2000 to promote "Education for All" are being used to support WFP's activities in school feeding geared towards reducing short-term hunger and increasing productivity.

49. Evidence has shown that girls' education is a critical factor for the eradication of poverty. The Secretary General's 10-year initiative on girls' education, announced at the World Education Forum in Dakar in April 2000, seeks to bring greater coherence to the work being undertaken in the system in this area. UNICEF, in collaboration with UNESCO, UNIFEM and UNFPA, is supporting the Africa Girls Education Initiative. Since 1991, WFP has been promoting girl's education through "take-home rations" programmes. The distribution of basic food items to poor, food insecure families, compensate families for the loss of girls' labour, allowing them to go to school. Surveys have shown that the programme has resulted in increased enrolment and attendance. The programme is currently being implemented in 8 African countries. UNESCO is paying particular attention to strengthening the access of women and girls to science education. A six-year project on "Scientific, technical and vocational education of girls in Africa" aims to increase girls' access to technical education and to promote policies favouring their inclusion. UNESCO has also funded two Chairs on Women in Science and Technology in co-operation with the Association of African Universities.

50. While attention is being paid to increasing access to basic education, the role of higher education in producing skilled technicians and managers cannot be overlooked, especially in the new information-based global economy and society. In this regard, science and technological knowledge are particularly important. In Africa, scientific and technological capacity is weak and the level of investment in this area is low. In the face of limited resources, UNESCO, in partnership with a number of agencies, has been facilitating the establishment and functioning of a number of networks, including the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI) and promoting centres of excellence in S&T capacity. Its University-Industry Science Partnership (UNISPAR)-Africa programme helps to promote endogenous development of technologies that can be used by the private sector. Targeted investment in countries like Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire and South Africa with a relatively sophisticated S&T base, spread across a wide range of disciplines, could establish world-class facilities that can help pull up the region as a whole. Contributions to the UNESCO International Fund for the Technological Development of Africa established in 1994 could help to make a difference.

51. Over the past few years the World Bank has sharpened its emphasis on the critical importance of capacity building in the development process. Consequently, the Bank continues to support capacity building institutions in Africa such as the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the Africa Virtual University. This is done through direct funding, technical assistance and donor coordination. The World Bank is also supporting the African-led Partnership for Capacity Building (PACT) initiative. PACT deals with one of Africa's major development difficulties, as recognized by African leaders, which is a lack of capacity to plan, implement, and monitor the development process properly. Over the next 5 years, PACT will mobilize $1.0 billion for a capacity building trust fund.

52. Built often on a weak physical and institutional base, education systems in many African countries are vulnerable to natural and human-made disasters that have hindered progress and, in some cases, even rolled back the achievements already won. Armed conflicts combined with HIV/AIDS continue to have devastating effects on education in Africa. One of the troubling by-products of political and economic instability has been the emigration of skilled manpower from the region. According to the ECA, as recently as the period 1985-1990, Africa lost 60,000 professionals (doctors, university lecturers, engineers etc) through emigration and since then has been losing an average of 20,000 skilled professionals annually.[19] This situation highlights more than ever the need for improved governance and conflict prevention.

53. The United Nations for its part will continue to advocate that EFA national plans be integrated into existing sector-wide approaches and be reflected in national PRSPs while promoting public-private partnerships in support of higher education. Opportunities offered by new information and communication technologies for distant learning will also be exploited by the United Nations system in its efforts to assist African member states to meet its priorities and goals. Resources should also be devoted to ensuring that Africa's rich indigenous scientific knowledge, such as the medicinal uses of plants, be exploited for the region's benefit. The work being done by WIPO to promote intellectual property in support of traditional knowledge and folklore should be supported and expanded in view of its potential contribution to the store of human knowledge and to take advantage of the economic opportunities in this sector. The United Nations will continue to facilitate the sharing of experiences in this area and promote innovate solutions tried in other regions such as the Brazilian "Bolsa Escola" programme, which provides a stipend to families to send and keep their children to school. Success stories such as these should be replicated in low-enrolment countries in Africa. In addition, the United Nations will encourage other development partners to support regional centres of excellence for research and development and also advocate for the regional specialization of academic training in order to maximize synergies and resources.

G. Improving Infrastructure

54. In addition to social infrastructure, modern and efficient physical infrastructure is critical to economic growth and competitiveness and, at a micro-level, infrastructure provides households with an escape from poverty. The United Nations system has been involved in assisting to some degree in supporting Africa's efforts in this area; however, because of the high capital intensity of the infrastructure, for the most part, its role has been limited.

55. Reduced transport availability and excessive costs constitute one of the major barriers to foreign markets and to an effective integration of African countries in the global economy. The World Bank, supported by the ECA and a large number of bilateral and multilateral donors, has been working within the framework of the Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP) to encourage and facilitate policy reforms in the transport sector. The Programme focuses on road maintenance through the Road Management Initiative (RMI); the implementation of national rural transport policies and strategies through the Rural Travel and Transport Program (RTTP); affordable and safe urban transport through the Urban Mobility component; ports and maritime transport through the Trade and Transport (T&T) component; and, railway efficiency through the Railway Restructuring component. ICAO has been providing technical assistance and policy advice on air transport liberalization, air safety and assisting in the recovery of user charges. Decrease in UNDP resources and funding over the last decade has led to a significant decrease in ICAO's programme in Africa since most States in the region have been unable to replace grant financing by reimbursable loans or by direct contributions from their own budgets. IMO is also helping African countries to upgrade their maritime administrations, enhance safety, and develop capacity in maritime transport.

56. In order to help Africa bridge the digital divide and enhance its participation in the global information economy, the United Nations has been playing a catalytic role in promoting Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the region. With a mandate from its Conference of Ministers, the ECA developed the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) in 1996, as part of its efforts to help build an information and communication infrastructure. To emphasize its importance, ECA devoted the first African Development Forum in October 1999 to the theme, "*The Challenge to Africa of Globalisation and the Information Age*". A number of initiatives were spawned at the Forum, including a plan for a regional School Net Africa, an African Distance Learning programme, discussion lists and activities related to gender and the information age in the context of Beijing +5, NgoNET Africa (an action group to engage civil society in the promotion of information and communication technology for African development), a telecentre network, activities to support the involvement of the African Diaspora in knowledge and development in Africa, the formation of a business to business network, the Alliance for African Business and the formation of national action groups with the specific aim of preparing for the Global Knowledge Information infrastructure.

57. UNDP is also working with the ECA to assist 10 sub-Saharan countries[20] to strengthen their Internet infrastructure and services in order to accelerate socio-economic development through its *Internet Initiative for Africa* (IIA). An estimated $7,732,000.00 has been invested in completed and ongoing projects and an additional $3,285,000.00 commitment to planned activities. Because its design (a reliable and cost-effective infrastructure, enabling policies and regulations and a pool of national/regional expertise) is essential for sustainable ICT infrastructure and services, the IIA programme has become the cornerstone for many of the Internet and related projects designed for the continent. This important operational activity is providing countries, which have not yet attracted sufficient investment in this sector, with a development and productivity tool that could help create new jobs, promote investment and products while being used for outreach, mass education, and health service improvements.

58. Access to reliable and affordable, modern energy is critical to the ability of African countries to be competitive in the global market and reduce poverty. Without the sustained use of modern energy, African countries will be unable to expand exports and diversify their economies. A number of activities have been put in place to respond to the goals of poverty reduction. The World Bank is paying particular attention to the issues of rural access and renewable energy and is currently involved in 17 projects worth $1.3 billion. UNEP has established the Africa Rural Energy Enterprise Development (AREED) initiative which brings together various financial institutions and non-governmental organizations (both within and outside Africa) to promote small, private sector energy companies in Africa that are based on renewable energy technologies. More attention needs to be paid to developing Africa's abundant energy resources, including natural gas, the least polluting of hydrocarbons. The Secretary General proposed the launching of a Natural Gas Exploration and Development Initiative for the LDCs, which will benefit African members. The international community should support the access of the poorest African countries to clean fossil fuels since it is clear that they will continue to play a key role in manufacturing and industry in the foreseeable future.

59. The benefits of improved transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructure will only be possible by joining forces with the private sector, including from other developing countries which have made great strides in ICTs. As underscored in the main report of the Secretary General on the subject, the United Nations will intensify its advocacy role at the international level, complement the market where it can and act as a catalyst, and coalition-builder.

H. Expanding Industrialization, Diversification and Trade in the New Global Context[21]

60. Despite the fact that Africa is richly endowed with natural resources, Africa share of global GDP is 3.5 per cent, its share of global exports 1.5 per cent and its share of global manufacturing value added (MVA) at 0.4 per cent (excluding South Africa). This is in part due to the fact that the majority of African countries remain highly dependent on a limited number of primary commodities, the prices of which are declining in nominal and real terms over the long term. In this context, the need for African countries to diversify their economies is evident

61. Since the late 1980s, this issue has been the subject of a number of reports, studies and resolutions coming out of the United Nations.[22] A number of activities have been undertaken by various UN agencies to support the

diversification of African economies, however, these activities are scattered and ad hoc and have not attained sufficient critical mass to have an impact on the economies of the region. At the request of the Committee for Programme Coordination (CPC), at its thirty eight session of 1998, that a programme on the priority theme "Diversification of African Economies" be elaborated and incorporated into the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative, an *Operational Framework for Action on Diversification of African Economies* was prepared by UNCTAD and DESA/OSCAL, with input from a panel of experts from Africa and a number of United Nations agencies. Once approved by all agencies, it could be considered as a road map for formulating national and regional strategies for diversification and as an advocacy tool to encourage other development partners to support diversification projects and programmes in Africa.

62. In the meantime, a number of activities are implemented by various United Nations organizations. In response to the industry-related aspects of the Cairo Agenda for Action, the requirements for regional integration under the Abuja Treaty, and the priority given to trade and diversification under UN-NADAF and UNSIA, UNIDO consolidated its activities in this area within the framework of the *Alliance for Africa's Industrialization* (AAI).[23] Within this framework, UNIDO has been developing new "so-called" Integrated Programmes[24] of technical assistance. These programmes focus on small and micro-level enterprises for employment creation and income generation in order to address poverty eradication goals. They also respond to private sector-led development and strengthening industrial competitiveness, restructuring and rehabilitation, the introduction of privatisation schemes and enhancing public-private dialogue through partnership councils. In addition, integrated programmes also provide sectoral economic analysis of agro-industrial opportunities, policies and priorities, as well as services on technology upgrading, industrial capacity building and performance improvement of agro-related industries. Efforts are currently being made to expand the regional dimension of the programmes and to coordinate their preparation and implementation with other international organizations and major donors. It is still too early to assess if the AAI has helped to reverse the decline in the region's MVA; however, it continues to advocate effectively for the industrial development of the region as a means of structural transformation, job creation and poverty reduction.

63. Although globalization and liberalization have created new products and markets and new forms of trade such as e-commerce, providing new opportunities for the region, African countries are confronted with a number of problems in responding to these openings. These range from high transaction costs and risks associated with small market size/small firms, weak private sectors, to lack of competitiveness, a skilled work force and domestic and foreign investment as well as supply capacity. Two joint programmes, the Integrated Framework (IF) for Trade-Related Technical Assistance of the World Trade Organization, UNCTAD, ITC, UNDP, the World Bank and IMF and the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for selected least developed and African countries (JITAP) of the ITC, UNCTAD and the WTO, have been attempting to provide the requisite assistance in trade-related capacity-building. The IF, which has been in place since 1997, has been recently overhauled to make it more effective. It will now seek to mainstream trade into a country's overall development strategy through the UNDAF and/or PRSP process to ensure that trade policy, trade-related technical assistance, and capacity-building needs are articulated in a broad development context. Since this is an ambitious initiative, an Integrated Framework Trust Fund has been established to fund it on a pilot basis before it is extended to a wider group of countries. JITAP, which has been providing assistance to 8 African countries,[25] particularly in World Trade Organization agreements has been instrumental in the upgrading of national capacities and in bringing Customs legislation into line with global agreements, building an inventory of decrees and laws, supplying of model legislation and facilitating the drafting of legislation.

64. The erosion of traditional export preferences and the demand for quality and technical standards imposed by importing countries means that markets are becoming more difficult to penetrate even if formal tariff barriers are being reduced.[26] More needs to be done to help African countries meet global quality standards. The question of subsidies also requires further examination in the context of financing diversification, especially in the context of the fact that industrialized countries spend more than $300 billion a year on agricultural subsidies, a figure that is roughly equal to the GDP of sub-Saharan countries and exceeds by 20 times the amount of ODA they receive.

65. Trade and diversification are critical tools for improving development prospects and achieving international development targets. However, for trade to do its part, much more needs to be done to extend market access for all goods from African countries by further reducing/removing tariff escalation as a way to encourage diversification. As stated in the main report of the Secretary General, this is an opportune moment for the United Nations, in

partnership with African countries and development partners, to formulate national and regional strategies for diversification. The *Operational Framework for Action on Diversification of African Economies* is a possible framework for engaging all members of the UN system in support of this goal. As a first step, the United Nations will initiate pilot country programmes to operationalize the framework. In addition, greater efforts are needed to assist countries in taking advantage of market openings as well as reducing their debt burden in order to attract more FDI. More importantly, everything has to be done to avoid political instability and armed conflicts. While this is the primary responsibility of African countries themselves, all partners can contribute to this goal.

I. Promoting Regional Integration[27]

66. Regional integration, built on openness and driven by the private sector, is an important instrument for enlarging markets, facilitating trade, factor and technology flows across national borders and promoting diversification of African economies. The United Nations has long played an important role in fostering regional integration in Africa. ECA has supported the process of regional integration by aiding the establishment of subregional economic communities, by providing technical assistance for institutional strengthening of the communities, by undertaking feasibility studies on subregional programmes and projects, and by conducting policy studies on self-financing mechanisms for various subregional organizations. In addition, ECA has collaborated with various UN agencies in supporting the African Economic Community (AEC), especially in the drafting of the protocols of the AEC. Many agencies are also working with subregional organizations, including UNPFA, which, in collaboration with the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) continue to provide assistance for harmonizing census operations in the 14 member SADC States.

67. If successful, an innovative new programme to support regional integration through the private sector designed by UNDP based on the experience of South-East Asia, could give sub-regional organizations the dynamism needed for fast paced integration. The *Programme for Innovative Cooperation Among the South* (PICAS), which promotes the growth triangle concept, has begun with a pilot growth triangle for Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique.

68. A number of factors continue to hinder effective regional cooperation and integration, including overlapping country membership in regional economic communities, inadequate financing of their activities, lack of policy convergence and harmonization and prevalence of conflicts in some countries/subregions. The United Nations will continue to assist in strengthening institutional capacities and will give the AEC its full support.

J. Mobilizing Resources for development[28]

69. In his report on *The Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa,* the Secretary General emphasized the importance of mobilizing resources to finance development. The report called for the conversion of all remaining bilateral debt of the poorest African countries into grants, wider, deeper and faster debt relief to Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC), an increase in the volume and quality of ODA and additional measures to attract FDI.

70. Some progress has been made in providing debt relief for the region's official debt of $170 billion through the (Enhanced) HIPC Initiative. Debt relief to 18 African HIPCs, which have reached their decision point, amounts to about US$25 billion in nominal terms (about US$14.6 billion in net present value terms). Together with traditional debt relief mechanisms, the Enhanced HIPC Initiative would reduce the total debt stock of these countries by two-thirds. Debt service-to-exports ratio is expected to drop by about one half, from about 18 per cent during 1998-2000 to about 9 per cent during 2001-5 and debt relief will provide annual savings on the budget varying between 1 and 2½ per cent of GDP of these countries, allowing significant increases in pro-poor expenditure. About 12 more countries are expected to qualify for HIPC debt relief over the coming years provided that their problems of internal conflict and weak governance can be resolved.

71. Progress in attracting private capital flows, particularly FDI, has been more problematical. Because of Africa's perceived riskiness, the region has been marginalized from international capital markets over the past

decade as shown by the fact that, according to UNCTAD, Africa attracted only $10.3 billion in FDI in 1999 of the total of $207.6 billion to developing countries. The challenge for African countries is to engender confidence in their economies through ensuring greater transparency, accountability and the rule of law. In this regard, African countries need to strengthen key institutions such as the civil service and the judiciary, so as to establish the requisite environment for attracting private resources critical for African. Several UN organizations, including UNDP, ECA, DESA, the World Bank, are currently involved in a number of projects to support these goals.

72. To encourage international private flows to Africa, the World Bank's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) has been providing the hands-on support needed by national investment promotion agencies to identify, approach, and service foreign investors. In Fiscal Year 2000, MIGA issued 67 contracts of guarantee covering projects in 17 African countries, which facilitated an estimated $3.8 billion in FDI. In addition, the World Bank and MIGA have created a specialized window within the Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) net, the MIGA's Internet-based market place for investment opportunities, to launch Privatization Link, profiling investment opportunities arising from privatization. This is being complemented by the IFC, which, in cooperation with donor agencies, is providing technical assistance to SMEs in through a broad array of instruments, including Africa Project Development Facility, which assists African entrepreneurs in formulating project proposals and in raising local and foreign financing; the African Management Services Company, which strengthens African enterprises by providing experienced managers and training local teams; and Enterprise Support Services for Africa, which provides post-financing support and managerial and technical support. The IFC is also the largest financier of private investment in sub-Saharan Africa with a committed portfolio as of fiscal year 2000 of US$1.2 billion in 318 projects.

73. Given that the majority of African countries are unable to attract adequate private flows, development assistance will continue to be the most important source of financing for development. However, despite robust economic growth in industrial countries in recent years, the volume of ODA to sub-Saharan Africa has continued to fall, from $15.7 billion in 1992 when development assistance reached its highest levels to $11.4 billion in 1999. Similarly, as the World Bank has shown, the fall in volume per capita is also striking going from $32 dollars in 1990 to $18 in 1998 just as the policy environment in many African countries has improved. Recent evidence shows that foreign aid has a strong, positive effect on a country's economic performance if the country has put in place appropriate policy and structural reforms. The majority of African countries are undertaking these reforms. In addition to increasing ODA, coordinating of its delivery and untying it from procurement in donor countries would help to improve its effectiveness. The commitment of OECD countries to untie ODA to LDCs should be extended to all African countries. In order to enhance ownership ODA should be predictable, flexible and be integrated into the national budget of African countries. As proposed in the main report, the Council may wish to encourage the donor community to support these efforts by increasing the volume and efficiency of bilateral assistance, targeting it to those areas that can provide a catalyst to development, especially capacity building and infrastructure support. Increased debt relief is also necessary to complement ODA. Five countries are currently meeting the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP to ODA.[29] Other donors should do the same.

74. The United Nations has been a key source of external financing for sub-Saharan Africa and the region is the largest recipient of the UN's development assistance. However, as with bilateral ODA, UN assistance has been declining both in nominal and real terms because of drastic cutbacks in voluntary contributions to core resources of the various UN funds and programmes (See Annex 1). Over the period of 1992-1999, UN assistance fell by 26.5 per cent but the fall was particularly dramatic between 1992-1996 when it fell by as much as 33.2 per cent. The dramatic decline in funding for UNDP has particularly affected Africa where programme resource allocations had fallen by 60 per cent in real terms since 1992. Increased coordination of United Nations support to Africa is not enough. The sharp fall in resources has hampered the ability of the system to respond to the priority needs of African countries and to deliver the expected results from ongoing programmes. While there has been a 3.2 annual average growth in UN assistance between 1996-1999, bearing in mind the urgency of reaching the internationally agreed development targets in Africa, it is important that donor countries sharply raise their voluntary contributions to UN Funds and Programmes.

75. At the national level, appropriate domestic strategies will need to be put in place to mobilize domestic resources through improved revenue collection, private investment, and improved intermediation of savings for investment, measures for encouraging the return of flight capital,[30] and, in cooperation with other countries, repatriating illicit wealth. Efforts will have to be made to reverse the trend where the bulk of resources flows, including FDI and ODA, are concentrated in 10 countries. At the international level, ODA, debt, and trade should

also be treated in a comprehensive framework for financing development. The challenge is to find the right mix of aid, debt, and trade measures that is efficient in attaining agreed objectives in the diverse African environment - a package of finance, policies, and programmes that promote sustainable anti-poverty development and conflict prevention. The International Conference on Financing Development to be held in 2002, offers a good opportunity for progress on this issue and should address the special concerns of Africa.

PART II: Promoting Coherence, Harmonization and Coordination of Development Assistance to Africa

76. The prospects for enhanced coordination among the UN system organizations, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, and with other partners have been enhanced by the widespread acceptance by the international community of the need for all partners to work collaboratively to improve the effectiveness of development assistance at the country level. This emerging consensus is based not only on recent assessments of aid effectiveness but also the realization that stemming the rising number of crises and humanitarian emergencies in Africa would be impossible if undertaken alone. A new paradigm has also emerged on how to promote sustainable development, namely, the need for a long-term integrated vision owned by the country, derived from a participatory process in which all local stakeholders are involved. The goal of development assistance is to support the implementation of country's programmes, utilizing the partnership approach with a view to achieving concrete development results, particularly in the area of poverty reduction and other internationally agreed targets and goals. Thus, these two strategic objectives present an opportunity to collaborate and coordinate at policy and operational levels.

A. Country-Level Coordination

1. Overall Coordination and the UN Country Team

77. In consonance with the evolution in thinking regarding sustainable development, the United Nations, as part of its reforms of 1997, has sought to enhance the effectiveness of its work by putting in place a number of measures to improve coordination among the United Nations organizations. The principle mechanism is the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which is a strategic planning and programming framework that identifies common challenges and responses of the United Nations system for greater impact. The UNDAF is based on the Common Country Assessment (CCA), which are collaborative country-based assessments of the national development situation as well as needs and priorities and is carried out by through the Resident Coordinator system. As of May 2001, 17 UNDAFs have been completed and another 15are in progress while 39 CCAs have been completed and 15 are in the process of finalization. In order for UNDAFs to be more effective, harmonization of the programming cycles of the funds and programmes is a pre-condition to launching the framework. [See the Report of the Secretary-General on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities of the United Nations System for Development (E/2001/55) and on Progress in the implementation of the multi-year funding frameworks (MYFF) and Evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) (A/56/70-E/2001/58)].

78. Through thematic groups, the United Nations Country Teams are developing a new working relationship based on collaboration, dialogue, pursuit of coherence, better use of the competencies of individual agencies to address the priority concerns of African countries. In addition to the most common theme groups on HIV/AIDS, gender, health and nutrition and food security, UN country teams in Africa are creating similar groups for disaster/conflict preparedness, prevention and management, in consultation with national authorities and other partners in response to the rise in the number and scale of man-made and natural disasters in recent years.

79. In the countries most severely affected by HIV/AIDS, theme groups on HIV/AIDS have proven to be very effective coordination mechanisms for providing UN system support and reinforcing national responses.

THE UN THEME GROUP ON HIV/AIDS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Background: Côte d'Ivoire's Theme Group was created in December 1995 by UNAIDS cosponsors, and quickly allied itself with the country's National Programme against AIDS, STDs, and Tuberculosis (PNLS/MST/TUB). Starting in 1997, NGOS and people living with HIV/AIDS began to join the Group. In 1998, the Theme Group expanded to include other UN agencies (FAO, ILO, UNOPS, UNIDO) and bilateral and multilateral partners (Canada, Belgium, France, Germany, the US and the EU). Responsibility for chairing the Theme Group rotates among the heads of the cosponsors every six months. Meetings of the core group are held monthly. The expanded group meets every two months.

Main activities: These include support for the National Programme against AIDS, STDs, and Tuberculosis; support to and coordination with other partners; support to AIDS national strategic planning; and creating a common approach between agencies.

Outcomes: These include increased cohesiveness among UNAIDS Cosponsors, and effective participation by UN agencies who play an important part in the national response; strong awareness of HIV/AIDS issues among agency heads; a close and effective working relationship with the National AIDS Programme; integration of civil society in the workings of the Theme Group, with benefits to all partners. The Theme Group has been able to adopt an integrated work plan, which includes support the national strategic plan, either jointly or according to the specific mandates of each agency with joint activities, evaluation mechanisms and budgets specified.

Lessons learned: Establishing close links with the national AIDS Programme is a key element for success. Administrative arrangements need to be clear, for example, through the development of a procedures guide, if the Theme Group is to achieve its full potential. The motivation of the agency chiefs is essential to the success of Theme Groups. Nomination of focal points must be formal, and must be followed by regular and active participation in the Technical Work Group. Involving the other UN agencies in addition to the cosponsors is a useful practice and one that increases the dynamism of the Theme Group. Funding of strategic planning and/or acceleration of programmes serves to increase the Theme Group's credibility.

80. In addition to theme groups, other mechanisms that foster coordination among agencies, such as joint programming, are being utilized more frequently. The joint UNDP, UNHCR, and WFP Reintegration Programme in Rwanda, the joint UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP programme of support for a Human Development Profile and Strategy for Egypt, and the joint UNDP, UNFPA, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO Pilot Poverty Reduction Programme in Ohangwena, Namibia are some examples of this trend. With increasing use of joint programming, the need to streamline and unify United Nations procedures vis-à-vis programme and project planning, as well as accounting, tendering and procurement and reporting requirements is becoming more urgent. Clearly, not enough progress has been made in this area.

81. Clearly, many African countries taking ownership of their own development in their hands and seeking to take a more active role in the coordination of development assistance. Governments are defining their priorities within the context of long-term programmes and establishing their targets, which, in a few cases are even more ambitious[31] than the internationally agreed goals. The Ghana example is a model for country-level coordination, with comprehensive national-level frameworks "owned" by the country with the United Nations and other partners supporting the implementation of the country's national goals.

Ownership and Partnership: The Case of Ghana

Vision 2020, Ghana's long-term development plan is the framework for development cooperation activities, including those of the United Nations system. Its core theme is poverty reduction and the primary objective is to transform Ghana into a middle-income country by the year 2020. All the assistance being currently received from development partners is within the framework of the plan as well others deriving from or supportive of it. To help in the coordination of external resources, a 'Local Aid Group' has been formed, comprising of representatives of bilateral and multilateral agencies supporting the Government's development programmes and targets. The Group has since evolved into a mini-Consultative Group (CG), which meets quarterly with Government Ministers to discuss the development programme. The Government hosted and chaired its Consultative Group Meeting for the first time in 1999. The Government of Ghana is utilizing sector-wide approaches (SWAps) in health, education and agriculture. SWAps have helped to foster country ownership and donor coordination in these areas since they require that all partners support the single policy thrust articulated by the Government's own sector programmes. The health sector in Ghana is a good example of this approach. The Government chairs a monthly health partner's forum of bilateral, multilateral, NGOs and the private sector. A Health Account has been established through which partners channel their funds in a common pool which can be accessed by the Ministry of Health directly, with due care taken for transparency. Through this partnership, a reduction by 10 points in infant mortality was achieved between 1993-1998. The majority of development partners, including the United Nations system, have harmonized their programming cycle with to fit into that of the Government of the Ghana.

82. To continue the positive efforts being made to reduce transaction costs for Governments, the Council may therefore wish, as discussed in the main report of the Secretary General, to invite bilateral donors to use the UN's CCA to promote policy coherence. The harmonization of cycles and the alignment of rules and procedures for programming used by bilateral and other multilateral partners would also be important.

2. Coherence and consistency of coordination mechanisms

83. African countries continue to raise concerns in various intergovernmental fora about the impact of the proliferation of programming and coordinating mechanism on their thinly stretched capacity. Like the United Nations with its CCA and UNDAF, the World Bank has developed its own mechanisms for managing assistance to countries. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), the Comprehensive Development (CDF) and the Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) are three key instruments for guiding the work of the World Bank in Africa. The PRSP is developed by a country and represents its medium-term strategy for reducing poverty. The CDF is the action framework whereby a country's partners join with it in laying out how they will work together – the sectors and programs that each partner will support. The CAS is the World Bank's specific business plan for helping the country implement its PRSP. Conceptually, the PRSP can be viewed as the strategy for reducing poverty. The CAS is, in turn, the vector of activities that the World Bank is planning to commit to help implement the PRSP.

84. The United Nations System-Wide Special Initiative for Africa is also a mechanism for coordination which is specific to Africa. In its original form, UNSIA had identified 20 priorities, which were later reduced to 13[32] in 1997 and later expanded again to 17 in 1999 to include regional integration and cooperation, diversification of commodities, population and gender. Only five of the cluster groups have been actively engaged in planned activities, namely, education, health, information technology, governance and, more recently, water. It uses the lead agency concept and includes the World Bank and other partners, such as local communities and other bilateral and multilateral agencies.

85. Through their overall coordination of external assistance, the governments of developing countries may wish to ensure the complementarity of the CDF and UNDAF in terms of their operational scope. The Ghana experience provides a case study for how these mechanisms could relate. The World Bank's CDF process helps the Government to formulate its strategies and programmes, building upon the analysis provided by the UN's CCA. The PRSP is an expression of the strategy, which is then used to formulate the CAS and the UNDAF - which respectively guide the work of the UN and Bretton Woods Institutions and the UN fund s and programmes at the country-level.

86. For those countries receiving HIPC or IDA assistance, the PRSP process can become an effective locus for coordinating external development assistance. The PRSP brings together the macroeconomic, structural, social and physical dimensions of poverty and set out a strategy to reach national and international development goals, emphasizing and prioritizing those that have the highest sustainable impact on poverty reduction. In supporting national leadership, a clear division of labour among development partners should be developed with each agency within the United Nations system and other partners, including bilateral and other multilateral partners, civil society, including the private sector playing their roles according to the mandates and competencies. In the case of the United Nations, its comparative advantages lies in its role as an advocate, in policy development based on a rights-based approach, in the development of strategy and, as a facilitator and coordinator of development interventions.

3. Coordination of emergency and development assistance to Africa

87. In Africa, conflict and post-conflict situations continue to negatively affect the development environment and pose a special challenge to the functioning of coordination instruments. To ensure a smoother transition from crisis to development, a number of institutional measures have been developed to address this problem. First, in crisis or post-conflict countries, an effort has been made to ensure a greater link between coordination of humanitarian and development activities. Where there is need for a Humanitarian Coordinator, most Resident Coordinators also serve as Humanitarian Coordinators. Out of 9 Humanitarian Coordinators currently serving in Africa, 8 are also Resident Coordinators, including in Angola, Burundi, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the only case where the functions are separated. Second, the relationship between political representatives present in these countries, including Special Representatives of the Secretary-General of either a peacekeeping or peace mission and Representatives of the Secretary-General of political and peace-building offices was clarified in a Note of Guidance by the Secretary General in December 2000. To increase coherence between the political and developmental/humanitarian arm of the UN system, the Resident Coordinator also serves in some cases as Deputy Special Representatives to the Secretary General as in Sierra Leone.[33]

88. Efforts are being put in place to ensure that peace-building strategies are implemented in a coherent, coordinated and flexible manner. Both CCA and UNDAF offer significant opportunities to identify and implement (preventive and post-conflict) peace-building strategies. While the CCA allows for conflict prevention issues to be taken into consideration at an early stage in the program process, the UNDAF, which serves as a joint UN strategy towards recovery and peace building, describes how the UN partners will work on common objectives and strategies of cooperation. In a number of crisis/post-conflict countries, the UN country teams have adapted the CCA Guidelines to encompass an in-depth analysis of a particular relief environment situation and determine, among other things, obstacles to an effective overall transition process, including development, humanitarian, political/security aspects. In addition to the options of modifying the UNDAF, other strategic frameworks exist. The Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP), which is used to mobilize resources for a number of countries, has also served as an efficient coordination mechanism. The Strategic Framework, which bring together the political, human rights and assistance elements of the United Nations response to the country, and is utilized on an exception basis for countries emerging from crisis, provides overall guidance to the United Nations Country Team in Sierra Leone.

89. The Interagency Standing Committee Reference Group on Post-Conflict Reintegration has recently drawn up guidelines to ensure better coordination between humanitarian emergency assistance and development assistance in post-conflict transitions, in particular in support of the reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons. The guidelines have been shared with various United Nations Country Teams and the Reference Group members for their comments and will be implemented shortly. In cooperation with the World Bank and UNDP, UNHCR initiated, in 1999, a series of Roundtables, under the patronage of The Brookings Institution, on the question of integration of relief and development. As a follow-up, the three agencies developed a number of pilot projects focused on Sierra Leone and the neighbouring countries. Unfortunately, developments in the region have affected the launch of most of these projects.

B. Regional-level Coordination

90. A number of UN organizations and agencies have subregional programmes and are working with regional and subregional organizations in their area of competence. In order to enhance coordination of the UN's work at the regional, and, in view of UNSIA's role in coordinating activities of the system in priority areas, it was decided to provisionally designate it as the mechanism for coordination of the UN system's activities in Africa. Due to its operational limitations, however, UNSIA has not been equipped to manage more than a reporting and sharing of information function.

91. Despite the limited success of regional coordination, there is still, however, a strong case to be made for a more structured approach that would be supportive of country and subregional programmes and involve all regional and subregional actors. Recognizing that regional integration is one of the key strategic tools being used by all countries, including developed countries, to confront the challenges of globalization, the role of the United Nations should be to strengthen African subregional economic communities. Through expanded inter-regional trade and investment, subregional communities can provide the catalyst for growth at the national level, enhancing the prospects for poverty reduction. Recent events in the Horn of Africa, Central Africa, and West Africa have shown that political instability and conflicts in neighbouring countries have and continue to undermine the success of national programmes. Because of the subregional dimensions of conflicts in Africa, it is imperative that subregional initiatives for promoting peace as well as development be strengthened and that an integrated subregional approach to conflict prevention, peacebuilding for economic and social development be developed.

92. African Governments are also asserting their leadership at the regional level, harmonizing their actions within the context of regional development goals. Just as national and subregional frameworks, strategies and initiatives should provide a framework for development assistance at these levels, so should Africa-wide programmes provide the framework for increased collaboration at the regional and sub-regional level. The United Nations intends to be guided by an Africa-defined, Africa-led, and Africa-owned agenda.

93. Supporting regional and subregional initiatives will require the United Nations system to coordinate its activities better and to work more closely with those bilateral and multilateral agencies with regional and subregional programmes. The United Nations will encourage the integration of sub-regional issues into its programmes and facilitate an integrated subregional approach to conflict prevention and peacebuilding for economic and social development. Towards this end, the United Nations system would have to set integrated policies and strategies, ensure the harmonization of UN system activities in the political, security, human rights, humanitarian and development areas, lend support to national and subregional peacebuilding efforts, promote the integration of a conflict prevention dimension in national and subregional activities and provide support to subregionally-owned initiatives. Other multilateral and bilateral development partners with subregional and regional programmes should work closely with the United Nations to deepen subregional and regional integration.

C. Global Coordination

94. The ACC, in its Spring Session in Nairobi from 3-4 April 2001, stressed that the system should unify in support of a single Africa-owned and Africa led framework for action, based on the rationalization and concordance of existing initiatives. In this context, the ACC supports a comprehensive review and appraisal of all existing United Nations initiatives on Africa which will be linked to the evaluation process of the UN-NADAF,[34] launched by the General Assembly in Resolution 54/234 and 55/217 in preparation for its final review and appraisal.

95. In addressing the most recent commitment of member-states on "meeting the special needs of Africa, in Section VII of the Millennium Declaration on Africa, it is clear that it would be more usefully done within the framework of the UN-NADAF and the work of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa. This approach would ensure that these goals and priority areas are followed up in a more integrated, holistic manner, based on mutually reinforcing efforts aimed at achieving economic recovery and development while working towards a durable peace. In doing so, efforts will be made to better integrate the Africa agenda more consistently into other intergovernmental agenda, such as poverty eradication, LDCs, finance and development, trade round, HIV/AIDS, peace and development.

96. Security Council has reiterated its willingness in its Presidential Statement on Peace-building of 20 February 2001, to consider ways to improve its cooperation with those United Nations bodies and organs directly concerned by peace-building, in particular the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which have a primary role in this field. The Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa tasked to monitor the recommendations of the Secretary General on this subject is an appropriate fora for further discussions on how to improve a cooperation among the various bodies. Because of its role in facilitating high-level advice and system-wide linkages, the Council's High-level Segment may use the occasion to address the problem of overcoming gaps between relief and development and between these and related political processes, through drawing lessons from failed and successful initiatives, and through helping the UN and others to address in a deliberate and systematic way the problems before them. The call by the General Assembly in resolution A/55/217 for the Council to set up an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Countries Emerging from Conflicts could be considered in that light.

97. Delegates to the High-Level Segment on Africa should use the opportunity to advance consensus on a single comprehensive framework highlighting the nexus between peace and development. As noted in the Secretary General's report, a single framework would allow for systematic monitoring of commitments made, including by the donor community and would maximize scarce resources in the most effective way in support of the priorities established by African countries themselves.

Conclusion: Final Review and Appraisal of the UN-NADAF

98. What can the United Nations system do to enhance the effectiveness of its activities in the region? First, there should be an honest re-assessment of the experience of the United Nations and other development partners in Africa. An independent evaluation of the UN-NADAF and related initiatives, requested by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in Agreed Conclusions (1999/2) and confirmed by General Assembly resolutions 54/234 and 55/216 will partly assist in this regard. In broad terms, the evaluation, which is taking place in preparation for the final review and appraisal of the UN-NADAF in September 2002, will determine the extent to which the objectives of UN-NADAF were met and assess the impact of the New Agenda on the development of Africa. More specifically, the evaluation team will assess the extent to which African countries and their development partners have met their responsibilities and commitments in achieving the goals and objectives set out in the New Agenda. In addition, it will identify and analyse the obstacles and constraints faced and suggest how they could be removed.

99. The evaluation process of UN-NADAF is an important occasion to promote mutually supportive actions and engagements by all parties to the comprehensive and coordinated approaches advocated in the Secretary-General's report on "The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" and the Millennium Declaration. In undertaking its evaluation and making recommendations, the Evaluation Team will take into account the outcome of the other intergovernmental processes, including the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs, the Special Session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, the High-Level Conference on Financing for Development, the work of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa and the debate and consensus arrived at during the High-Level Segment.

ENDNOTES

[1] These organizations include: ECA, DDA, DPKO, FAO, IAEA, IFAD, IMO, ICAO, ILO, IMF, ITU, OCHA, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNCCD, UNCDF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNEP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNHCS-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNIFEM, UNU, WFP, WHO, WIPO, WMO, World Bank.

[2] *The Libreville Declaration,* adopted by African Heads of State at meeting in Libreville, Gabon, from 18-19 January 2000, reconfirmed the commitment of African Governments to reducing poverty by half by 2015 and called upon the international community to support their efforts.

[3] The original countries are Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the new countries include Egypt, Algeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia and South Africa.

[4] The Algiers Declaration on Governance, the Grand Bay Declaration and Plan of Action on the protection of human rights, and the Algiers Decision of July 1999 (CM/Dec.483 (LXX) on unconstitutional changes in Africa indicate a new recognition of the rights of people to fully participate in the process of governance through their democratically elected representatives.

[5] The Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa emerged from the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa Conference on the Proliferation of Small Arms which took place in Nairobi in March 2000 and the Declaration Concerning Firearms, Ammunition and other Related Materials in the Southern Africa Development Community came out of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held in Windhoek in March 2001.

[6] In acknowledging that food and agriculture production has fallen substantially since 1960, *the Cairo Declaration* calls for the promotion of agriculture and diversification within the framework of agro-processing as key strategies to achieve food security. This position was reaffirmed in the *African Common Position on Food Security and Agricultural Development* (CM/1954 (LXIV) adopted at the OAU Summit in Yaounde, in 1996.

[7] In terms of absolute numbers, there are more chronically hungry people in Asia and the Pacific, but the depth of hunger is clearly the greatest in sub-Saharan Africa. In 46 percent of the countries, the undernourished have an average deficit of more than 300 kilocalories per person per day. This compares to 16 percent of the countries in Asia and the Pacific.

[8] SADC has developed its own food security strategy which emphasizes small-scale agriculture in areas where there is a comparative advantage; measures to improve income stability; income safety nets for vulnerable groups; integration with world cereal markets; support small-scale farmers to improve competitiveness.

[9] These countries include: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

[10] These include the Declaration AHG/Decl. (XXXIII) on Health, as a Foundation for Socio-Economic Development in 1987, followed by the Dakar (1992) and Tunis (1994) Declarations on HIV/AIDS, the Algiers Common Position and Plan of Action on Strategies to support HIV/AIDS orphans, Vulnerable Children and children infected by HIV/AIDS, and the Lomé Declaration on HIV/AIDS in Africa of 2000. The first OAU Summit on HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases was held in Abuja in April 2001.

[11] The Cosponsors are UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNDCP, UNESCO, WHO and World Bank

[12] African countries have emphasized the importance of addressing the control of malaria through the *Harare Declaration on Malaria Control of 1997.*

[13] A public-private partnership, led by WHO, is seeking to provide 60 million African families with bednets over the period 2000-2005. The campaign is directed towards children since they comprise 700,000 of the 1million annual deaths from malaria. Some countries continue to impose luxury tax on bednets as imported textiles.

[14] WHO reports that sleeping sickness has reemerged as a disease of major public health importance with 40,000 cases reported in 1999. Only approximately 4 million of the estimated 60 million people at risk of the disease were under surveillance and the 500,000 who are believed to carry the disease will die without treatment.

[15] The World Bank is working with WHO, 25 NGOs, 27 donors and 30 African countries and a pharmaceutical company to eliminate riverblindness. The programme has been successful in eliminating the disease in West Africa and progress is being made in the rest of the continent.

[16] According to WHO, up to 30 per cent of the 1 million people who die from malaria each year, are from countries affected by complex emergencies, the majority displaced and without shelter from mosquitoes.

[17] *The Cairo Agenda* called on African Governments to give priority to basic education and skills as well as building capacity in science and technology. The African Ministers of Education adopted a framework for action under the theme *Education for African Renaissance in the Globalized Economy, Communication and Culture* in December 1999, emphasizing improving access and equity, quality and relevance, strengthening institutional and professional capacity building; and improving partnership with civil society.

[18] These countries include: Angola, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Somalia.

[19] UNESCO studies show Africa counted only 20,000 scientists and engineers, or 0.36 per cent of the world total and that the region was responsible for only 0.8 per cent of total world scientific publications while its share of patents is close to zero. Available figures suggest that as many as 30,000 Africans holding Ph.D. degrees are living outside the continent.

[20] Angola, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Swaziland.

[21] The *Cairo Agenda for Action* recognizes that industrial development is central to facilitating Africa's entry into the mainstream of globalization and for improving incomes and reducing poverty. Against this backdrop, the Cairo Agenda stressed the importance of industrialization, which was reaffirmed by the OAU Declaration on the Industrialization of Africa (AHG/Decl.4 (XXXIII) at its Summit in Zimbabwe in 1997.

[22] Resolutions A/RES/43/27; Africa's Commodity Problem: Towards a Solution UNCTAD/EDM/ATF/1 United Nations; Geneva, 1990; A/45/591; A/45/178B; A/46/324/Add.1; A/48/335; A/48/214; A/48/914; A/RES/49/142 and A/RES/53/606. A/RES/49/142 called for setting up a window in the AfDB to finance the preparatory phase of commodity diversification projects and programmes to which state participants in the Bank were asked to contribute.

[23] The OAU endorsed the Alliance (Yaounde Resolution CM/Res.1663 LXIV) in July 1996, as a new "dynamic mechanism for the attainment of the goals of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA)".

[24] Currently there are 14 programmes under implementation Africa (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda). Programmes for Eritrea, Mali and Nigeria have recently been approved.

[25] The eight beneficiary countries of the Fund are Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tunisia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

[26] These developments include full duty-free access by Norway, New Zealand and "Every But Arms Initiative" of the EU. The US, Canada and Japan have also improved market access by amending their GSP schemes.

[27] Regional integration has long been recognized as a key strategic element of African development as reflected in the Lagos Plan of Action of 1980, the Abuja Treaty, of 1991 establishing the African Economic Community (AEC), the Cairo Agenda for Action and the Sirte Declaration on the African Union adopted at the OAU Extraordinary Summit held in Libya in September 1999.

[28] *The Cairo Agenda* as well as various Declarations of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance have reaffirmed the importance of mobilizing financial resources for sustainable economic development and called on African countries to more effectively mobilize domestic resources. Development partners have also been asked to increase ODA, to undertake measures to encourage increased FDI flows and, at the 4th OAU Extraordinary Summit in Sirte in 2000, to cancel all debts.

[29] These countries are Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden.

[30] The ECA estimates that Africa has a larger proportion of wealth overseas than any other region (39 per cent compared to 6 per cent for East Asia before the crisis).

[31] Uganda's goal is to eliminate extreme poverty by 2017 instead of reducing it by half in 2015.

[32] These included water, food security, governance, information technology, south-south cooperation, basic education, health sector reform, poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods in environmentally marginal areas, debt relief, partnership innovations, trade access and opportunities, and internal resource mobilization.

[33] There are currently two political offices in Africa (Angola and Burundi), three Peace-Building Offices (Guinea Bissau, Central African Republic and Liberia) and three peacekeeping/peace missions (Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone and in the border between Ethiopian and Eritrea).

[34] Agreed Conclusions 1999/2 in para. 22 requested that the Secretary General commission an independent evaluation of the performance of the New Agenda, including its relationship with other relevant initiatives.

ANNEX 1: United Nations Assistance to Africa

AFRICA									
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
UN Assistance, nominal terms	1,840,628	2,092,887	1,938,064	1,808,642	1,716,119	1,510,514	1,550,909	1,694,872	1,727,612
UN Assistance, real terms (constant 1995 US$)	2,018,635	2,235,869	2,015,720	1,840,037	1,716,119	1,493,574	1,527,084	1,652,204	1,643,043
Growth of UN Assistance (%)	..	11	-10	-9	-7	-13	2	8	-1
	1,991	1,992	1,993	1,994	1,995	1,996	1,997	1,998	1,999
UN Assistance per capita (%)	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
UN Assistance per capita in real terms (%)	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
Growth (%)	..	8	-12	-11	-9	-15	0	5	-3

Source: Estimated based on World Bank's WDI and LDB, 2000 and DCPB/DESA's data, 2001
Figures are deflated by the Implicit Deflator of US GDP